

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 1. (currently amended) A method of making an elongated
2 structural component having regions of different thicknesses along
3 a length thereof matched to different loads adapted to be applied
4 to said component, the method comprising the steps of sequentially:

5 (a) rolling flexible metal strip so as to form along a
6 length thereof rolled strip segments of different wall thickness;

7 (b) cutting from the flexible rolled strip sheet bars
8 having regions of the different wall thicknesses formed by rolling
9 in step (a) and matched to different loads to be applied to the
10 component;

11 (c) reshaping each sheet bar cut from the rolled strip in
12 step (b) to a final configuration of the respective structural
13 component in at least one forming step in at least one hot-forming
14 tool; and

15 (d) hardening the respective reshaped sheet bar thereof
16 in the respective hot-forming tool.

1 2. (currently amended) The method defined in claim 1,
2 further comprising the steps of:

3 marking positions of strip segments of different wall
4 thicknesses prior to cutting step (b); and

5 in cutting step (b) positioning a cut contour for the
6 ~~cutting in step (b)~~ precisely using the positions marked on the
7 strip.

1 3. (currently amended) The method defined in claim 1,
2 further comprising the step of
3 providing in said strip at thinner segments thereof ~~for~~
4 ~~the cutting in step (b)~~, formations compensating for thickness
5 differences in said strip and facilitating stacking thereof.

1 4. (original) The method defined in claim 3 wherein
2 said formations are corrugations.

5. (canceled)